

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 2, 2006. Claims 1-11 and 13-18 remain pending in the present application. Claim 12 has been canceled. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended. Applicant has amended claim 13 to include the subject matter of canceled claim 12. No new matter is introduced.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indicated allowability of claims 1-11 and 13-18. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application and claims are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejection Under 35 USC § 103 – Claim 12

A. Statement of the Rejection

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,944,284 to Goodings, hereafter *Goodings* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,924,511 to Burns *et al.*, hereafter *Burns*.

B. Discussion of the Rejection

Applicant has canceled claim 12. Consequently, the rejection of claim 12 is moot.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating in the Office Action that claims 1-11 are allowed and that claims 13-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has hereby amended claim 13 to include the subject matter of canceled claim 12. Accordingly, Applicant has placed the present application in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-11 and 13-18 are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any comments regarding the Applicant's response, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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